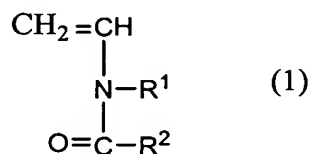


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

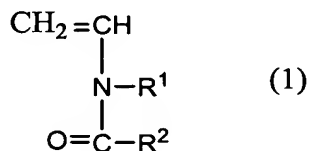
Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An ink or paint comprising from 1 to 25 % by weight, as a binder for said ink or paint, a polyvinyl acetal having N-vinylamide monomer units in the molecule, wherein the N-vinylamide monomer is represented by the following formula (1)



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and  $\text{R}^2$  represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or wherein the N-vinylamide monomer is N-vinyl-2-caprolactam.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A ceramic green sheet formed with a binder, wherein the binder is a polyvinyl acetal having N-vinylamide monomer units in the molecule, wherein the N-vinylamide monomer is represented by the following formula (1)



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and  $\text{R}^2$  represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or wherein the N-vinylamide monomer is N-vinyl-2-caprolactam.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 0.01 to 20 mol % of vinyl ester monomer units and from 0.1 to 20 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units and has a degree of acetalization of from 45 to 80 mol% when the vinyl acetal monomer units therein are counted in terms of the number of two acetalized vinyl alcohol monomer units.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 0.01 to 20 mol % of vinyl ester monomer units and from 0.1 to 20 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units and has a degree of acetalization of from 45 to 80 mol% when the vinyl acetal monomer units therein are counted in terms of the number of two acetalized vinyl alcohol monomer units.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polyvinyl acetal is obtained through acetalization of a polyvinyl alcohol that has from 0.1 to 20 mol % of N-vinylamide monomer units and from 0.01 to 20 mol% of vinyl ester monomer units in the molecule.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polyvinyl acetal is obtained through acetalization of a polyvinyl alcohol that has from 0.1 to 20 mol % of N-vinylamide monomer units and from 0.01 to 20 mol% of vinyl ester monomer units in the molecule.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 0.5 to 15 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 15, wherein polyvinyl acetal contains from 0.5 to 15 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 1 to 12 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 19, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 1 to 12 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the degree of acetalization of from 50 to 78 mol%.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 15, wherein the degree of acetalization of from 50 to 78 mol%.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polyvinyl acetal is obtained from at least one aldehyde selected from the group consisting of alkylaldehydes having at most 4 carbon atoms and benzaldehyde.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polyvinyl acetal is obtained from at least one aldehyde selected from the group consisting of alkylaldehydes having at most 4 carbon atoms and benzaldehyde.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 24, wherein the aldehyde is butyraldehyde.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 25, wherein the aldehyde is butyraldehyde.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 11 and 13 have been canceled.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 10, 12 and 14-27 are now pending in the application.